

## Case 3392

### *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 (currently *Sympherobius elegans*) and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 (currently *Vieira elegans*) (Insecta, Neuroptera): proposed conservation of the specific names

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.5 of the Code, is to conserve the specific names *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 (currently *Sympherobius elegans*) (HEMEROBIIDAE) and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 (currently *Vieira elegans*) (CHrysopidae). Although *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 are primary homonyms, they were treated congenerically only for the seven-year period from 1844 to 1851, after which the junior name was removed from *Hemerobius*. The senior homonym is a European brown lacewing; the junior homonym is a Neotropical green lacewing. Both names are in current use. It is proposed that *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 be conserved by ruling that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior homonym of *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; CHrysopidae; HEMEROBIIDAE; *Vieira elegans*; *Sympherobius elegans*; green lacewings; brown lacewings; Costa Rica; Suriname; Brazil; Europe.

1. Stephens (1836, p. 113) described *Hemerobius elegans*, a brown lacewing, from England, although the name had been used earlier in an unavailable context by Stephens (1829, p. 312). The species was transferred to *Sympherobius* Banks, 1904 by Banks (1905, p. 40), where it is placed today. It has also been treated briefly in the genera *Mucropalpus* Rambur, 1842 by Schoch (1885, p. 20) and *Eurobius* Krüger, 1922 by Krüger (1922, p. 171), neither placement of which gained wide acceptance. *Sympherobius elegans* is currently known from at least 29 countries across Europe (Aspöck et al., 2001, p. 149). The genus *Sympherobius* is currently classified as belonging to the subfamily SYMPHEROBIINAE (HEMEROBIIDAE) (Aspöck et al., 2001, pp. 145–147).

2. Guérin-Méneville (1844, p. 388) described *Hemerobius elegans*, a green lacewing, from Brazil ('Rio-Janeiro'). It was transferred to the genus *Chrysopa* Leach in Brewster, 1815 by Schneider (1851, p. 134), to *Nodita* Navás, 1916 by Navás (1928, p. 125), to *Berchmansus* Navás, 1913(b) by Banks (1944, p. 29, as 'Berkmansus' (sic)), and subsequently to *Vieira* Navás, 1913(a) by Tauber (2007, p. 123). This is a rare species that is currently known from Costa Rica, Suriname and southeastern Brazil. The genus *Vieira*, with type species *Leucochrysa leschenaulti* Navás, 1911, was placed by Adams (1978, p. 211) in the tribe LEUCOCHRYSINI (CHrysopidae,

CHrysopinae), but has recently been transferred to the tribe BELONOPTERYGINI (CHrysopidae, CHrysopinae) by Tauber (2007, p. 123).

3. *Symppherobius elegans* (Stephens, 1836) is a well-established name for a common European brown lacewing. Aspöck et al. (1980, p. 228; 2001, p. 149) list more than 120 literature citations for this name, by more than 50 authors, during the period 1957 to 2001. *Vieira elegans* (Guérin-Méneville, 1844) is a rare species with few citations in the literature. The following six post-1956 references have been identified that cite the species-group name *elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 as a valid name (all combinations in *Berchmansus* except as noted): Penny, 1977, p. 15; Brooks & Barnard, 1990, p. 244; Penny, 2002, p. 190; Tauber et al., 2006, p. 221; Tauber, 2006; Tauber, 2007 (in *Vieira*).

4. Although *Hemerobius elegans* Stephens, 1836 and *Hemerobius elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 are primary homonyms, they were congeneric in *Hemerobius* for only the short period from 1844 to 1851, when the latter species was removed to the genus *Chrysopa*. Because the two species are currently placed in different families, there seems little possibility that the two species will ever be treated in the future as congeneric. The junior homonym *Vieira elegans* (Guérin-Méneville) has no available synonyms, and therefore cannot be replaced with a pre-existing name. Nomenclatural stability in this case would be best achieved by conserving both names in their present usages, rather than by requiring the proposal of a new replacement name for the junior homonym.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the name *elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*;
  - (b) *elegans* Guérin-Méneville, 1844, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, with the endorsement that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *elegans* Stephens, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius elegans*, as ruled in (1).

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